

NETWORK NEWS SUMMARY FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING, June 5, 1985

AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

CBS's Peter Van Sant: The air traffic control system may be facing its most serious threat since the PATCO strike -- the potential retirement of thousands of experienced controllers. Of the 4,200 veteran controllers who stayed on during the strike, more than 1/3 have retired. And according to the FAA, nearly all of the remaining experienced controllers are eligible to retire this year. The FAA doubts it will suffer a mass exodus of controllers, but Rep. Molinari -- who has visited with controllers at 12 major centers -- believes those eligible will head for the exits.

(Molinari: "Morale is so bad...that as soon as their day comes for retirement, they're going to be leaving.")

Critics say the best way to solve the experience problem is to hire back some of the fired PATCO controllers, but the FAA steadfastly refuses to do that, leaving a less experienced work force to handle a growing number of flights. (CBS-8)

WALKER SPY CASE

Rather: Word from the Pentagon that three of the suspects in the Walker case all held their top secret security clearances in the Navy without having those clearances reviewed every five years as required by the Pentagon. The Pentagon now says it just doesn't have enough investigators to review the more than 400,000 people cleared for top secret material. (CBS-9)

GM-HUGHES AIRCRAFT

Rather: General Motors announced it will buy Hughes Aircraft, a giant defense contractor. This \$5B deal is the biggest acquisition of a private company in this country's history. (ABC-3, NBC-5, CBS-Lead)

NIXON-MUSKIE

Jennings: Former President Nixon and former presidential candidate Edmund Muskie have been trying to work out a bipartisan plan for arms control. According to a report in the Chicago Tribune, President Reagan has been encouraging it. (ABC-7)

PAKISTAN/NUCLEAR

ABC's John McWethy: Intelligence sources say Pakistan is piling up weapons-grade uranium to make nuclear bombs, weapons some experts in the Middle East and U.S. claim may already exist. India's PM Gandhi on Good Morning America:

(Gandhi: "We think they are very far along.")

The Reagan Administration is extremely sensitive and somewhat embarrassed by the Pakistan situation. As the U.S. provides military aid, Pakistan continues to buy and steal what it needs to build a bomb. (ABC-8)

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